Invest Courageously in Delay

Matthew 25:14-30

The language of delay:

The language of delay:

24:48 – “My master is delayed”

The language of delay:

24:48 – “My master is delayed”

25:5 – “As the bridegroom was delayed”

The language of delay:

24:48 – “My master is delayed”

25:5 – “As the bridegroom was delayed”

25:19 – “Now after a long time”

In delay, we are called to . . .

In delay, we are called to . . .

prepare wisely. (10 virgins - 25:1-13)

In delay, we are called to . . .

prepare wisely.

invest courageously. (talents - 25:14-30)

In delay, we are called to . . .

prepare wisely.

invest courageously.

love sacrificially. (sheep/goats - 25:31-46)

The parable of the talents

The parable of the talents

A man went on a journey . . .

Each servant **entrusted** (14-15)

Servant #1 - **5** talents

Servant #1 - **5** talents

Servant #2 - **2** talents

Servant #1 - **5** talents

Servant #2 - **2** talents

Servant #3 - **1** talent

“each according to his ability” (15)

talent = about 20 years' income

Each servant entrusted (14-15)

Each servant **invested** (16-18)

Servant #1 - 5 + 5 = **10**

Servant #1 - 5 + 5 = **10**

Servant #2 - 2 + 2 = **4**

Servant #1 - 5 + 5 = **10**

Servant #2 - 2 + 2 = **4**

Servant #3 - 1 + 0 = **1**

“hid his master’s money” (18)

“Now after a long time” (19)

Each servant entrusted (14-15)

Each servant invested (16-18)

Each servant **rewarded** (19-30)

Servants #1 and #2 - the commendation

“Master, you delivered to me five talents . . .” (20)

“Master, you delivered to me five talents . . .” (20)

“Master, you delivered to me two talents . . .” (22)

“Master, you delivered to me five talents . . .” (20)

“Master, you delivered to me two talents . . .” (22)

“here, I have made five talents more.” (20)

“Master, you delivered to me five talents . . .” (20)

“Master, you delivered to me two talents . . .” (22)

“here, I have made five talents more.” (20)

“here, I have made two talents more.” (22)

The commendation

He **congratulates** them –

“Well done, good and faithful servant.” (21, 23)

He **entrusts** them –

“You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much.” (21, 23)

“eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison”

2 Corinthians 4:17

He **invites** them –

“Enter into the joy of your master” (21, 23)

“He shall be the end of our desires who shall be seen without end, loved without cloy, praised without weariness.”

Augustine

“He shall be the end of our desires who shall be seen without end, loved without cloy, praised without weariness.”

Augustine

cloy = too much of a good thing

Servant #3 - his defense

You are **hard**. (24b)

You are **hard**. (24b)

“I knew you to be a hard man” (24b)

You are **hard**. (24b)

“I knew you to be a hard man” (24b)

hard = severe, unyieldingly harsh

“accuscuses” = accusations + excuses

You are hard. (24)

You are **demanding**. (24b)

You are hard. (24)

You are **demanding**. (24b)

“reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed.” (24b)

You are hard. (24)

You are demanding. (24b)

You are **scary**. (25)

“. . .‘so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’” (25)

“But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed?’” (26)

“Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest.

“So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents.

“For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

“And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (27-30)

What did Servant #3 do wrong?

He wasn’t judged for . . .

a lack of **ability**.

He wasn't judged for . . .

a lack of **ability**.

"each according to his ability" (15)

He wasn't judged for . . .

a lack of ability.

a lack of **time**.

He wasn't judged for . . .

a lack of ability.

a lack of **time**.

"after a long time" (19)

He wasn’t judged for . . .

a lack of ability.

a lack of time.

a lack of **quantity**.

He was judged for being more **fearful** than **faithful**.

What does “investing” well look like?

What does “investing” well look like?

* **Courageously improving** the Master’s **resources**

1. **Humility** - to trust the Master

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?

“You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

1. Humility - to trust the Master
2. **Vision** - to see **what matters**

“seek first the kingdom of God” (6:33)

“seek first the kingdom of God” (6:33)

“love God and neighbor” (22:37-40)

“seek first the kingdom of God” (6:33)

“love God and neighbor” (22:37-40)

“make disciples of all nations” (28:19)

1. Humility - to trust the Master
2. Vision - to see what matters
3. **Courage** - to be willing to **take risks**

Will I trust my Father with what he has entrusted to me today?

How can I increase or improve what has been entrusted to me?

Am I willing to be stretched in order to love God and neighbor well?

1. Humility - to trust the Master
2. Vision - to see what matters
3. Courage - to be willing to take risks
4. **Patience** - to **defer gratification**

“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

Galatians 6:9-10